

lesser fee be required, please charge or credit the same to our deposit account no. 22-0261 and notify the undersigned.

Kindly amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the original specification with the substitute specification text that is attached to this letter as Attachment B, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.125(a).

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 5, 9 to 11, 15, 22 and 24 to 29 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend claims 1 to 4, 6 to 8, 12 to 14, 16 to 21, and 23 to read as shown below:

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1. (Once Amended) A process for producing branched fatty acids, comprising producing said branched fatty acids from at least one plant cell or from one plant material or from a plant comprising at least one plant cell, said plant cell comprising in its genome a recombinant nucleic acid coding for an enzyme permitting transfer of one or more alkyl groups to the double bond(s) of an unsaturated fatty acid.
2. (Once Amended) The process according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of extracting the branched fatty acids.
- [Handwritten mark: A large X is drawn over the first claim, and a checkmark is placed next to the second claim.]*

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~~(Once Amended) The process according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of treating said extracted branched fatty acids.~~

B2
~~4. (Twice Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the recombinant nucleic acid codes for a product which induces or stimulates the post-synthetic branching of the fatty acids produced by said plant cell.~~

B2
~~6. (Once Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the recombinant nucleic acid codes for a methyl transferase.~~

B2
~~7. (Once Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the recombinant nucleic acid codes for a cyclopropane fatty acid synthase.~~

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~~8. (Twice Amended) The process according to Claim 4, wherein the plant cell comprises in addition a recombinant nucleic acid coding for an S-adenosyl methionine (SAM) synthetase.~~

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~~12. (Once Amended) A recombinant nucleic acid comprising: *catalyzes?*
a nucleic acid coding for an enzyme permitting transfer of one or more alkyl groups to the double bond(s) of an unsaturated fatty acid,
a promoter regulating the expression of said nucleic acid and capable of causing the localized expression of this nucleic acid in certain plant tissues or certain plant parts, and,
a 3' transcription termination region.~~

B3
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13. (Once Amended) The nucleic acid according to Claim 12, wherein the promoter is a promoter capable of causing localized expression of the nucleic acid in the seed of a plant.

B4

14. (Once Amended) The recombinant nucleic acid according to Claim 12, wherein said nucleic acid codes for a methyl transferase.

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16. (Twice Amended) The recombinant nucleic acid according to Claim 12, wherein said nucleic acid further comprises a nucleic acid coding for the SAM synthetase.

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17. (Twice Amended) A vector comprising a recombinant nucleic acid according to Claim 12.

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18. (Twice Amended) A plant cell comprising a recombinant nucleic acid as defined in Claim 12.

19. (Once Amended) The plant cell according to Claim 18, wherein said plant cell is an oleaginous plant cell.

20. (Twice Amended) A transgenic plant comprising at least one cell according to Claim 18.

21. (Twice Amended) A transgenic plant comprising at least in one part of its cells, a nucleic acid according to Claim 12.

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23. (Twice Amended) A process for preparing branched fatty acids from a transgenic plant whose cells contain a recombinant nucleic acid according to Claim 12, comprising:
culturing said transgenic plant in a field;
recovering the seeds from said transgenic plant; and
extracting the branched fatty acids from these seeds.

Please add the following new claims numbered 30 and 31:

B4

-- 30. (New) The plant cell according to Claim 19, wherein said oleaginous plant cell is colza, sunflower, peanut, soya, flax or maize.

31. (New) The process according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
culturing said plant cell in a medium suitable for growth; and
extracting and purifying the branched fatty acids from said plant cell or from the supernatant of said medium. --
